



WHY CHURCH?

Week Four

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for meeting us here. Help us to be aware of your presence and your leadership in our life. Amen.

Talk It Over

Church is not intended to be a place we go to, but rather a collection of people who are following Jesus and learning to live and love the Jesus way. This series, "Why Church?", is intended to help us better understand why the church is important and relevant to us today. This week we focused on the idea of worshipping wholeheartedly.

- Tell about a time or a moment you were in awe. (For example, the first time you met your spouse, saw your new born baby, heard a story, etc.)
- When you think of the word 'worship', what comes to mind?

Let's re-read our theme verse, Hebrews 10:24-25 (Voice), for this series.

This week we talked about the idea that worshipping wholeheartedly is like us opening the floodgates to God's love and power into our life.

- If you are a follower for Christ, what are your earliest memories of worshipping God?
- When do you find yourself most inclined to worship God? (For example, when things are good? When you're at church? In your car? In nature?)

Read Luke 19:37-40 (NLT)

The word 'cheer' at the end of this verse can be translated as the word 'praise' or 'worship'. We can praise or worship through the songs we sing, words we say, actions we take, and so forth. In fact, worship, as depicted in the Bible, is really about the life you live.

- In light of worship being something we do with our life, what are some ways you can worship God through the various roles you fill in your life? In other words, what does an actual lifestyle of worship look like? Think work life, home life, community life, school life, etc.

Read John 10:10 and Exodus 20:3-5 (NLT)

There is a war for your worship. When we find ourselves worshipping anything other than Jesus, we are in danger of falling victim to lies that can destroy our life. When God tells people he is jealous, he is reminding people that we are made by God and for God, and our worship is intended to be for him supremely.

- Have you ever allowed a lie to cause trouble in your life? Tell us about the lie you fell victim to.

(Content continued on the next page.)

When these verses we looked at today were originally written, it was not uncommon for people groups to worship various gods — a sky god, a moon god, a sea god, a land god, and so on. These days, we may not worship other gods relating to nature, but we do worship things besides God — like, money, careers, fame, or self worship. Sometimes the things we worship aren't even bad — think family, fitness, or work.

- Tell us about something you used to worship but no longer find yourself chasing after.
- Tell us about something you battle worshipping other than God this season.

Read Hebrews 12:28 (NLT)

Another way we can talk about holy fear is to talk about respect. Holy fear, or respecting God, is about right sizing God. Our worship is about us seeing God for who is he.

- What does a lack of respect or disrespect look like in relationships? Feel free to tell a story about disrespect or to describe disrespect in your own words.
- Tell us about someone you respect or have holy fear towards. How does that reverence play out in day-to-day interactions.
- In what ways would more holy fear for God bring life to your relationship with God?

Read Romans 12:1 (NIRV)

Romans 12:1 reminds us that God desires to have our whole life, all our hearts, and all our worship. There is no part of who we are God isn't interested in. None of this means we have to have it all together, in fact, the Bible makes it clear, God even desires to work in the most broken places of our life.

- Is there an area of your life you are not offering up to God? What is that area and what is holding you back?
- Is there an area of your life you'd like to invite God into more this season? Tell us about the ways you can make more room for God in that specific area.

Closing Prayer

God, thank you for allowing us to be with you. Thank you for meeting us where we are — regardless of who we are and what we have done. Thank you for inviting us to offer our whole lives to you and thank you for receiving us despite the ways we fall short. Help us to grow in our ability and willingness to worship you with our entire lives. Help us to open ourselves up to you; we want to open the floodgates of your love and power in all aspects of our life. We want to live a life of worship. Amen.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressure to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.